(c) The estimate of production and export of Tea and Coffee during 1999-2000 is as follows:—

Year	Tea (in Mn. Kgs)		Coffee (in Metric Tonnes)	
	Production	Export	Production	Export
1999-2000	825.00	180.00	282000	210000

Import of Marble

1849. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government took a policy decision sometime back to allow import of marble under OGL;

(b) if so, how many licences were issued for import after the declaration of this policy;

(c) what quantity of marble was imported and whether it affected the Indian marble industry in any way;

(d) how much foreign exchange was involved till date in marble import; and

(e) what are Government's plan to protect the interest of Indian marble industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Marble in various forms and its products, as classified under Exim Code Sub-heading 25.15 and 68.02 of ITC (HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items 1997-2002, are permitted to be imported against surrender of Special import Licence, subject to specified minimum import prices. These special import licences are obtained by the importers from the market. No licences for import of marble and marble products are required to be issued by the Government.

(c) to (e) Total quantity of marble and marble products imported under Exim Code sub-headings 25.15 and 68.02 during the period

April to June, 1999 was 6185.6 M.T. for a value of Rs. 7.84 crores as per the provisional import figures available with the Government. Indian marble industry is unlikely to be seriously affected by this level of imports. Marble is a minor mineral and the policy regarding development of this product is framed by respective State Governments. However, recently Department of Mines, Government of India, has constituted a Group on Marble Development, which will work under the supervision of the Granite Development Council, to look into the issues relevant to the development of marble mining and industry.

Export of Engineering Goods

1850. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of his Ministry in the export of engineering goods during the last three years;

(b) whether there has been decline in the export of engineering goods in 1998-99;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken by Government to increase the export of engineering goods; and

(e) the target set for 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The performance of Engineering Goods Exports during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Rs. Cr.	US $ Mn.
1996-97	14395.74	4055.00
1997-98	16478.68	4433.95
1998-99	16001.61	3803.51

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The major cause for negative trend in the engineering goods exports has been the continued unfavourable global economic condition particularly on account of economic/currency crisis in